Ruby

Boll's General Store closed its doors to the public for the last time in June of 1969, after 68 years of public service. It was closed after the sudden and unexpected death of its owner and operator Roland Boll, who along with his wife, Loretta, managed the store since 1945. In one article it was stated the store was built in 1892, and another that the store was built in 1901-1902 by Henry Klindt Sr. and operated by Henry Klindt, Jr.,and later by Henry Schulz. When the town was named Amity, the east end of the store was a post office. The store changed hands in 1913, when Grover and Nettie Meyer took it over and operated it as the Grover Meyer General Store. They lived above the store and in the southwest bedroom is where there daughter Loretta Meyer Boll was born. In 1919, Otto Andersen who was born and raised in Maysville and worked in the store of Grover Meyer for several years moved to Walcott and went into partnership with Grover Meyer to found the Walcott business, Andresen & Meyer. Grover remained in Maysville, operating his original store.

The interior of the Maysville store holds many physical memories:

On the second floor was the pipe room, which comprised of stove pipes, fittings and an octagon bolt cabinet. In later years, after Grover and Nettie built their home next door, the bedroom was converted into a glass room, where windows were brought in to be repaired or specific sizes of glass were cut for customers. A fond memory for many children was the school book room, which was filled with books and supplies needed for the year in our one room country schools. Parents would bring the sheets of paper marked by the teachers and we would fill the orders. Needless to say, this was a busy time and many trips were made up and down the stairs. An apartment remained in the East half of the upper level, with a beautiful screened porch over the truck shed. A hand-operated elevator, which storekeepers used to move appliances, seed corn and glass from the second floor storage was a memorable classic. It was used to transport stock to and from the basement, as well.

In the basement were the vinegar barrels. Farmers and residents would bring their vinegar jugs and they would be filled from the barrels. Cases and cases of "soda" were stored in the basement and it was the operators job to fill cases of every kind imaginable. Remember: strawberry, orange, cream, grape and of course in later years we all remember the 5 cent Coke. Sorting pop bottles was a memorable task.

The back room (called the feed shed) was a storage area for bulk dry goods and eggs that were brought by the farmers in trade for groceries. In later years, it was used for candling eggs for sale to grocers in Davenport. In 1937, Grover stated in an article that because of the low prices being offered for eggs, an egg grading law would be a good thing in affect in the state of Iowa. He pointed out that the new cream law had worked wonders in improving the quality of the Iowa cream and butter ane he believed that an egg law would likewise improve the quality.

The walk-in cooler remained in contact for years, which stored halves of beef, poultry, butter, milk, produce, etc. The meat department was a wonderful memory for children who would come with their parents and be handed a slice of bologna or weiner. The meat was cut as you ordered!

Behind the store was the chicken barn, that housed poultry brought by farmers in trade for groceries. They were butchered and sold in the market, as well as sold to local poultry companies. Farmers also traded butter and lard for groceries.

It was told that during the depression, bins were constructed behind the store and farmers would trade corn for merchandise, goods, and food. Luckily, the market on corn went up enough that Grover broke even. It was said he fed and helped many during the difficult days of the depression.

The store hours were seven days a week and it was not unusual in the early years to be open until 11 p.m.. The men usually did the shopping and women and kids (if they did come along) would stay outside in the buggies and visit with other women. The store contained everything from appliances, boots, overalls, gloves, tools, fittings, sewing supplies, bulk cookies, salted herring in a barrel, "green cheese"(in the jar on top of the meat counter), and anything you could imagine. It was a gathering place for the residents and farmers, who would sit around on Saturday nights and catch the latest gossip. In the later years, the store remained open late on Wednesday and Saturday nights. The store was a local gathering

place when Wednesday night outdoor movies were a popularity. The movies were shown on Roehlk's barn behind the gas station. The giant old floor radiator was a welcome spot for the children to sit and warm their feet after ice skating on the pond behind the store. Roland delivered bottled gas, as well as groceries around the local community and town, and the "red truck" was a familiar part of Maysville.

Over the years, the Maysville store was supplied by Nash Finch, Circle Food Stores, and in later years in the 1960's it was Boll's Clover Farm Market supplied by Chas. Mull and Sons of Muscatine. In later years, dressed poultry was supplied by Louis Rich in Rock Island, and fresh produce would be picked up at Logomarcino's. Remember the large banana crates! The shredded newspaper packing made wonderful nests for Easter egg hunting.

In 1969, the store became a ceramic shop and in 1974 , the store was purchased by Ken Ferris who converted the second floor into three apartments. Carl and Ruby Ferris remodeled the lower level and lived there until 1997.

"Thanks for the memories, it was where I was born and raised and cherished every golden moment. It was hard work: waiting on customers, stocking the shelves, cleaning, carrying out groceries and carrying in egg cases, but Dad and Mom(and Grandpa and Grandma) always had the best employees in the world, and I treasure the years I was able to work alongside them.. What I am today is rooted in the cardboard boxes I sat in for many years as a small child, and watched the toil, tears, hard work, dedication, generosity, and building of strong character. THEY WERE THE BEST!!!"-Nancy (Boll) Holdorf